

In Loving Memory of



Bishop Marshall Q.C. Simmons
November 23, 1930-January 1, 2016

OBITUARY

*My heart is indicting a great matter
and my tongue is the pen of a ready writer
concerning matters of the King*

*~Bishop Marshall Q.C. Simmons
RE: Psalms 45:1*

Bishop Marshall Q.C. Simmons, a great and godly man has been called from labor to reward. Bishop Simmons was destined to be used by God from the very beginning of his life. Much in the spirit of Hannah, after the deaths of several children Agnes Simmons prayed that the Lord would allow her to carry a child to term. She vowed to the Lord that if he would allow her to have this child she would give him back to God. Bishop Simmons was that child born to Agnes and Marshall Simmons on November 23rd 1930 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Raised in Oakland and Berkeley, California, true to his mother's vow, Bishop Simmons devoted his life to the saving of souls and to being a loving husband and father.

Bishop Simmons was saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Ghost during a 1947 revival in Berkeley, California conducted by his Father Elder Marshall Simmons Sr. under the leadership of Bishop E.E. Cleveland. Bishop Simmons often told the story of how it was only through one of his friends (Pastor Asbury Scott) invitation that he attended the life changing revival. At 17 years old Bishop Simmons was ordained into the ministry by Bishop Cleveland.

Shortly after his call to the ministry, he married his dear church friend and Berkeley High School classmate, Doretha Simmons. They were married in 1950 in Berkeley, California by Bishop Cleveland. In 1951 their only son, Lambert Simmons was born; and in 1952 their only daughter, Rhonda Simmons was born.

Bishop began pastoring in Earlimart, CA in the mid-fifties and went on to pastor Faith Temple Church of God in Christ in Sacramento, CA in 1956. He ministered faithfully in Sacramento for 14 years when he moved his family back to the Bay Area. With the help of his father, Bishop Simmons converted a storefront on 21st Avenue in Oakland into Agnes Memorial Church of God in Christ; opening on Palm Sunday 1970. The ministry grew by leaps and bounds. In 1971 the church began its radio broadcast that reached out to thousands of souls. The church moved to 2372 International Blvd in Oakland where by the grace of God he purchased a full city block in the heart of the city. In 1978, he and his wife founded the Lady Agnes Child Care Center which went onto become the Agnes Memorial Christian Academy.

Known all over the country as the original "Pew Walking" preacher, Bishop Simmons's ministry knew no boundaries. In addition to preaching in National Convocations of Church of God in Christ, Bishop Simmons preached throughout the United States of America, including Alaska, for churches small and large— no matter the denomination. A member of the Bay Area Baptist Ministers Union, Bishop Simmons preached for Baptist Churches all over the Bay Area and for years he was the only Church of God in Christ preacher to minister in the annual "Prayer Bowl" held on New Year's Day. Bishop Simmons placed no limits on the reach of the word of God.

As he would say, "You cannot put a whale in a bathtub, whales swim in oceans." He always said he would go preach for the Pope if he was given an appointment.

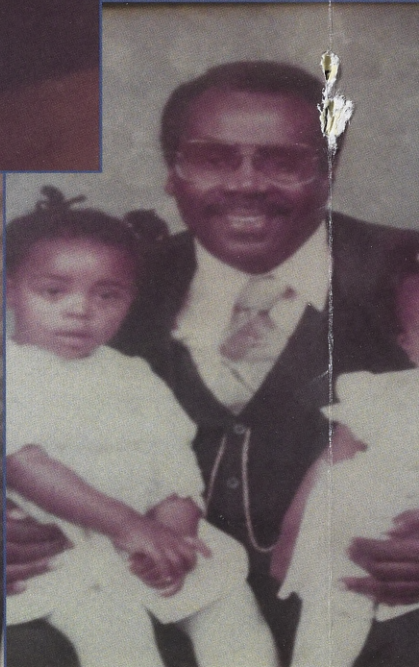
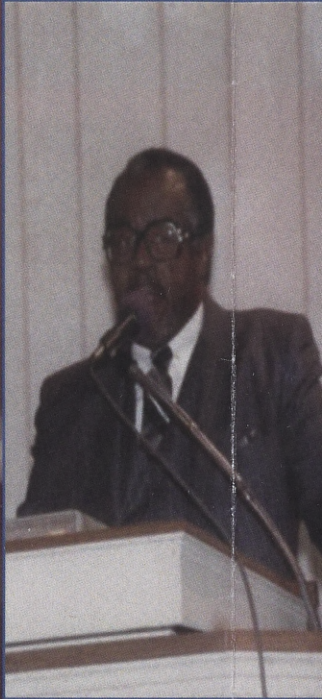
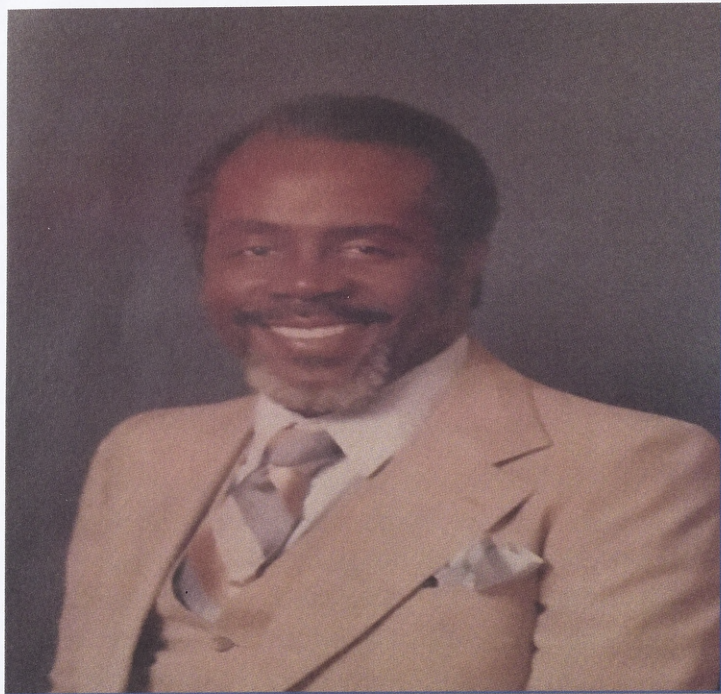
Traveling was a passion for Bishop Simmons. He loved being able to go from state to state in revival. But, he also loved traveling with family and friends. He traveled with his wife to places like Israel and Paris. They would take road trips with a young Rhonda and Greg. Even when he became a grandfather, he loved driving his grandchildren on their yearly trip to Knots Berry Farm and Six Flags. No matter how successful his ministry Bishop always had time for his family.

Whenever you got a chance to run into the Bishop, whether he was in the pulpit or Merritt Restaurant, he was bound to tell you a story that was sure to generate some laughs. He would take you back with him to times before salvation when he was president of the Masterminds and the Honey Dripples. He may even let you know he was getting older because his hair that used to wave like the Pacific was only left with a few ripples. Or even as he did while officiating his granddaughters wedding, make a husband promise to forsake all hoochie mamas before jumping into a James Brown interlude of so good, so good, 'cause I got you. Everyone who spent any length of time with Bishop Simmons was sure to be blessed with a one-liner or two.

Though strengthened in the Lord, Bishop Simmons also suffered loss in his life. In the mid-nineties, while grieving the loss of his daughter Rhonda, Bishop Simmons was diagnosed with cancer. Despite the circumstances, he never lost his faith in God and while walking the neighborhood to regain his strength he began going door-to-door sharing the gospel with his neighbors. This led to the reopening of the 21st avenue church. In the memory of his father he renamed the church the Marshall Memorial Neighborhood Church.

Bishop served honorably and faithfully until the Lord called him home. The impact of his ministry resonates worldwide through the countless ministers, pastors, preachers, and musicians who call him Father in the Gospel and to those of us who called him daddy or paw paw.

Preceded in death by his wife Doretha Louise Simmons, his daughter Rhonda Michelle Simmons, and grandson Derrick Simmons, his legacy continues with his devoted son Lambert Gregory Simmons (Goldie); his grandchildren Aijeron (Willie), Bonita (Eddie), Immanuel, Sharice (Edwin), Erik Simmons (Chanita); a host of great grandchildren; Brother Kendall Simmons; Sisters Esther Thomas, Quinola Ike, Ruth "Peaches" Sowell, and Rhoda Burges





17 Likes 11 Comments

Like

Comment

IN HIS OWN WORDS

I'm so bad I'm Scared of myself

You may think I'm Crackin but I'm Factin'

You a trip without a ticket

I'm elephant happy and I'm whale glad

People used to say you are good looking now they just say Hey Q you looking good.

They used to call me Dark Gable now they just call me dark!

I'm a trip without a ticket.

You better make sure you got that GET UP STUFF

I'm gone preach the hell out of somebody up in here!

ORDER OF SERVICE

*Bishop Robert Jackson Officiating
Acts Full Gospel Church of God in Christ*

*Organ Prelude..... Lionel Holoman Jr.
Processional Clergy & Family
Invocation Supt. J.E. Bobo
Old Testament Scripture Pastor Charles Smith
New Testament Scripture Pastor Mark Clifton
Musical Tribute..... Mother Kenether Lee*

CELEBRATION OF LIFE TRIBUTES

*Bay Area Baptist Ministers Union.....Pastor Joe Smith
Church of God in Christ.....Attending Clergy*

Musical Selection Marshall Simmons Memorial Choir

*Bishop Simmons "Father in the Gospel".....Elder James Williams
Bishop Melvin Scott
Bishop Anthony Willis*

Musical Tribute.....Elder Brandon McCray

*Bishop Simmons "Pastor"Mother Creamie Reed
Sister Geneva Broughton*

*Musical Interlude..... Immanuel "Grego" Simmons
Bishop Simmons "Brother".....Kendall Simmons
Bishop Simmons "Grandfather"..... Bonita Simmons*

Musical Selection Marshall Simmons Memorial Choir

*Acknowledgment of Cards and Resolutions.....Chanita Simmons
Reading of the ObituaryPatrice Washington
Sermonic Solo Jeanie Tracy
Eulogy Bishop Jerry Macklin
A Glimpse until Glory Bishop Melvin Scott &
McNary Funeral Home Staff*

*Benediction
Recessional*

Active Pallbearers

*Tahjeron Wade
Eddie Mack
Willie Wilson
Philip Davenport
Antonio Campbell
James Amos*

Honorary Pallbearers

*Erik Simmons Sr.
Derrick Simmons Jr.
Immanuel Simmons
Tahrese Mack
Melvin Scott*

Acknowledgements

*Special thanks to Mamie Hudson,
Donna Brown, Byron Johnson, and
Keiyoko for your loving care during
Bishops final days.*